

XVII.—*Notes on Birds observed in Russian Lapland, Kolguev, and Novaya Zemlya, in 1895.* By HENRY J. PEARSON. *With Introductory Remarks by Col. H. W. FEILDEN, C.M.Z.S.*

A SHORT prefatory account of the cruise of the 'Saxon' last summer may interest some of the readers of 'The Ibis,' and no doubt will be useful in the future to others who may desire to carry out further investigations in the lands of the Frozen North which we visited.

The project of reaching Novaya Zemlya for ornithological investigations originated entirely with Mr. H. J. Pearson, who, with his brother, Mr. C. E. Pearson, chartered the yacht, defrayed the expenses of the voyage, and invited the Rev. H. H. Slater and the writer to accompany them. To obtain a steam-yacht fitted for cruising in the ice-encumbered waters of Barents Sea is not an easy matter to effect. Many yachts, steam-trawlers, and other descriptions of craft were offered to Mr. Pearson, but on examination were not deemed suitable, and at one time it seemed as if the projected cruise would fall through, owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable vessel. As a last resource the steam-yacht 'Saxon' was chartered. She had made the voyage to Kolguev and Novaya Zemlya in 1894 with Mr. Trevor-Battye and Mr. Mervyn Powys. Her small size and limited coal-capacity, with weak steam-power, were great drawbacks: fully recognized, however, before the vessel was hired. The 'Saxon' is a staunch little sea-boat of 50 tons registered and 117 tons yacht measurement, and, though tried pretty severely, behaved remarkably well in some tolerably heavy weather. It will be seen in the sequel that the 'Saxon's' want of steam-power and coal-capacity greatly modified the original plan of the voyage, which was to arrive in Novaya Zemlya at the earliest possible date, and to carry out there extended ornithological researches. The voyage from Bergen through the inner fiords of the Norwegian coast, a run through the Lofoden Islands, and our rambles in the birch-woods around Tromsö, with a lovely day passed in the

Porsangerfjord, and a visit to the island of Store Tamsö, with its wealth and variety of bird-life, only require a passing notice, as Mr. H. J. Pearson and Mr. E. Bidwell have lately published in these pages their experiences in this part of Arctic Norway\*.

At Vardö the little 'Saxon' was filled up with fuel to her utmost capacity, every available portion of her deck, as well, being piled up with sacks of coal. Leaving Vardö on June 14th, the course was laid for Nameless Bay, in the north-west of the south island of Novaya Zemlya. A careful study of the voyages of Lamont, Leigh-Smith, Markham, Gore-Booth, Nordenskjöld, Payer, Wilczek, and others, had led us to the conclusion that the most favourable line of approach to Novaya Zemlya, at the comparatively early season of the year we were attempting it, lay in this direction. We were in hopes that the heavy polar pack that stretches in a curve from the south-east of Spitsbergen to the western shores of Novaya Zemlya, might in June find its southern limit about the latitude of Matyushin Schar, the strait which divides the two islands of Novaya Zemlya. At the same time the ice which forms during winter in the great bight of Barents Sea—lying between Cape Kanin, Kolguev Island, and Goose-land of Novaya Zemlya—might then be disrupted and moving westward, and a comparatively clear lead would probably be found about the parallels of 72° and 73° N., between the northern and southern packs. This was the experience of Admiral Markham and Sir Henry Gore-Booth in 1879, who, in the little sailing craft 'Isbjörn,' anchored in Nameless Bay on the 12th of June, without encountering exceptional difficulties from ice.

Two days after leaving Vardö, on the evening of June 16th, we passed through a good deal of loose ice, and at midnight were brought up by heavy pack, which extended north-west, north, and east without a break, and no sign of a water-cloud. Towards those points of the compass an ominous yellow ice-blink hung over the vast ice-fields. We were then in 72° N. lat. and 45° E. long., Goose-land, the nearest

\* 'Ibis,' 1894, pp. 226-238.

part of Novaya Zemlya, being 120 miles distant. During the 17th and 18th of June we worked along the edge of the ice in a south-easterly direction, every likely bight in the pack was entered, and in some places these indentations were followed up for 20 or 30 miles, but invariably they ended in blind leads, and we were brought up by impenetrable ice. On the morning of the 17th June we reached our nearest position to Novaya Zemlya, on the 71st parallel, South Goose Cape being 80 miles distant. Still working south, and hugging the edge of the pack, we found ourselves at mid-day of the 18th June in lat.  $70^{\circ}$  N., but the trend of the pack had forced us to the westward some 120 miles from the shores of Novaya Zemlya.

At this stage of our voyage we were confronted with the difficulty always hanging over us, but which we had hoped against hope to escape—the paucity of our coal supply. The little ‘Saxon’ at this juncture had only enough fuel left to take her back to Vardö, whilst no dependence could be placed on her sail-power. Our first attempt to reach Novaya Zemlya had to be abandoned, the ship’s course was shaped for the Murman coast of Russian Lapland, and on the morning of June 20th the beacon on Sviatoi Nos was sighted. We steamed into Sviatonoskia Bay, on the west side of Sviatoi Nos, and worked our way up the Ukanskoe River, which flows into the south-west angle of the bay, and anchored about three miles up the river close to a Lapp summer settlement, the village of Lutni. Here the members of the expedition went into camp and prosecuted their researches. In the meantime the ‘Saxon’ proceeded to Vardö for a further supply of coals. A very pleasant week was passed in the vicinity of Lutni, and the neighbouring country was explored for several miles around camp. But the want of some means of locomotion other than walking was a serious hindrance. There are no ponies amongst the Lapps, and the reindeer are not available for travelling when the snow is off the ground. Above Lutni the Ukanskoe River is so beset with rapids that it is not navigable, even for the boats of the natives. However active and willing

travellers may be, there is a comparatively short limit to the possible walk from camp, even in the long twenty-four hours' day of a Lapland summer. In spite of this immense drawback, useful observations were made by the party.

The 'Saxon' returned to Lutni late on the evening of the 27th June, and by 1 A.M. of the 28th, camp had been struck and everything was on board. The vessel at once steamed out to sea. In the afternoon we were abreast of Cape Kanin, a low uninviting tundra-land, streaked with patches of snow. Early the next day we sighted the island of Kolguev, and by 7 A.M. were abreast of its northern extremity. Shortly after we saw the ice-pack on our starboard quarter stretching south in a solid mass, and resting on the north side of the island. We steamed into thick banks of fog in a heavy and confused sea, and hove to for several hours. In the afternoon the fog cleared somewhat, and we steamed to the edge of the pack, our latitude by dead reckoning being  $70^{\circ}$  N. All throughout the next day, the 30th June, whenever the fog permitted, we continued making nothing, keeping close to the ice. This went on till the afternoon of the 1st July. The weather then cleared, a smart breeze coming up from the south-east, and under steam and sail we ran along the pack edge till 12 P.M. A midnight observation placed us in  $71^{\circ} 3'$  N. lat., our approximate longitude being  $49^{\circ} 5'$  E. The 2nd of July was bright and fine, with a fair and strong breeze from south-east, but the ice was as dense as ever, and lay in an unbroken mass to the north as well as to the east. We had to alter our course to sail round the most north-westerly point of the ice, and in so doing passed through the loose fragments of ice which hung around this projecting point. These lumps were heavy, and we could see their blue tongues wallowing and rolling 20 feet below the surface as they tumbled about in the heavy swell. On rounding this point at 6 P.M., great was our joy to see a broad and expansive lead showing to the north-east, and directly in our course for Novaya Zemlya. Steam was got up, every bit of canvas set, and we bowled along with clear water ahead of us. At 11 P.M. the high mountains of Novaya

Zemlya were seen, and a little after midnight we were within eight or ten miles of the low shores of Goose-land. Here our further progress was stopped by a close pack which stretched eight miles broad along the entire length of Goose-land, and joined with the main fields of ice off North and South Goose Capes. Our position was extremely aggravating ; there was the land of promise only a few miles away, and yet we were effectually cut off from it.

Some narrow leads and cracks showing to the north-west, the yacht was worked into the pack in that direction, in the hope that it might bring us round North Goose Cape, and that open water might be found in the neighbourhood of Möller Bay. By 6 A.M. of the 3rd July we had worked into the pack as far north as lat.  $72^{\circ} 10'$ , but we had been edged out some 26 miles from the land, North Goose Cape bearing exactly due east of our position. We had therefore not improved our circumstances, but, on the contrary, as the leads we had worked along were constantly shifting and closing under the influences of wind and tide, we were in imminent risk of being beset. The only course left was to endeavour to retrace our steps. This was done, and after a final struggle with a barrier of loose ice some 50 yards wide, which taxed to the full all the little steam-power of the 'Saxon,' the big space of open water off Goose-land was regained. By this time the broad channel which we had come by the previous night had become completely closed.

For the rest of that day we worked slowly along the edge of the pack that barred us from the land, hoping for some beneficial change. It was evident that great movements were taking place amongst the ice-fields, we could see dark clouds betokening open water in the direction of Kostin Schar, beyond South Goose Cape. A great channel three or four miles wide, connecting with the water space we were in, opened up during the course of the day to the south-west. Evidently the entire pack was loosening off the land and moving forth for its final break-up in Barents Sea. Could we have remained for the next few days, taking advantage of every favourable movement in the ice, there is little doubt

we should have been able to effect a landing. As it was, there was only sufficient coal left to take the 'Saxon' back to Vardö under favourable conditions of wind and weather, so, for the second time, the order to retreat had to be given. With a favouring south-east wind and a full head of steam, we ran down the broad channel of water to the south-west at a speed of nine knots, and in three hours had cleared the ice on our starboard, but still kept it on our port side all the way to Kolguev, which we sighted on the evening of the 4th of July.

It had been determined, if our second attempt to reach Novaya Zemlya failed, that our party should land, if possible, on Kolguev, whilst the yacht again went to Vardö for coals. The 5th of July ushered in a splendid morning, the sea as smooth as glass, with a gentle warm wind from the south. Under these pleasant surroundings we ran down the west shore of Kolguev under the lee of the land, the island, with its mournful-looking cliffs of blue clay and flat treeless tundra, looking less dismal than is its wont. The intention was to have made a landing, if practicable, at the mouth of the Kriva River, in the south-west of the island; but when we got abreast of the entrance to the Gobista River the sea was so smooth and the landing looked so easy that it was thought wise not to miss a chance, as already the wind was veering to the east, and masses of black thunder-cloud were rising portentous from the horizon to the zenith in the same direction, accompanied by the distant rumbling of thunder. The yacht was run in to within a mile of the shore and anchored in three and a half fathoms. Tent, supplies, and bedding were rapidly landed and camp made, but not before the thunder-storm broke over us, with rain and great fury, accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning: a phenomenon not common in the Arctic Regions. We were none too soon, for just as the men and boats returned to the yacht, and the "farewell" had been hoisted, and the 'Saxon' bore away for Vardö, the long, angry, surf-crested waves came booming in on the beach, and for the next ten days there was never a time that a boat could have communicated with the shore or

a landing been possible. Our stay on Kolguev lasted ten days. During the greater part of the time the weather proved very inclement, with frequent fogs and bitter cold winds from the north and north-west; during three days the pack-ice came down from the north and girdled the west side of the island.

On the 13th of July we saw the little 'Saxon' in the offing; she came within two or three miles of the shore, but it was blowing hard from the north-west, with a heavy sea. To communicate with us was impossible, and we soon lost sight of the vessel in the driving mist and fog, apparently heading southward. By the morning of the 16th July the weather improved; there was little fog, and the sea calm. At 7 A.M. the 'Saxon' returned and anchored off the entrance to the Gobista. Our camp equipage was rapidly transferred to the yacht, and in three hours we were steaming northward on a third attempt to reach Novaya Zemlya.

Though we obtained interesting results in ornithology, botany, and geology in the neighbourhood of the Gobista, yet the want of means of locomotion, other than on foot, greatly circumscribed our explorations. We saw nothing of the Samoyeds, though the tracks of their reindeer-sledges were met with on the tundra, while the large piles of drift-wood recently stored up at the mouths of streams and gullies debouching on the shore, showed that some of them must have lately visited the western side of the island.

We imagine that our ornithological investigations would have proved richer had we landed further south and nearer the great lake of Promoinoe. But, as a matter of fact, we were fortunate under the circumstances in effecting a landing at all, and still more in getting off the island with so little trouble. The want of any harbours, the shallowness of the surrounding sea, the dangerous and shifting sand-banks, extending miles to seaward, the presence of ice, frequent fogs and bad weather, even in summer, make Kolguev abhorred by mariners, and render an approach in a ship of even moderate draught very risky. This, of course, accounts for the little reliable information we possessed of an inter-

esting island until the visit of Mr. Trevor-Battye in 1894, the outcome of which was his delightful volume 'Ice-bound on Kolguev.' We quite realize and appreciate his courage, almost temerity, in landing and being left with a single companion on this bleak and desolate island, scantily provided with stores, and not knowing for certain whether the island was inhabited even by a few wandering Samoyeds, nor whether Russian traders from the Petchora still continued their summer visits to Kolguev.

Rounding the north of Kolguev, we found that a marvelous change had taken place during the past ten days. The great fields of pack-ice, which then extended from the north of the island to Novaya Zemlya, had completely disappeared, and we steamed into Kostin Schar on the evening of the 17th July without encountering any ice worth mentioning.

After visiting an island at the entrance of Kostin Schar, on which we found an extensive breeding-place of Brünnich's Guillemots, we anchored in a bay on the mainland of Novaya Zemlya, in latitude  $71^{\circ} 21' N$ . From there excursions were made inland. Several reindeer were seen, but they were wild and difficult of approach. The country thereabouts is much broken up by streams, gullies, and lakes, the latter still covered in part with ice. Though this portion of Novaya Zemlya is hilly and rocky, probably 500 to 800 feet in altitude, it presents no insuperable difficulties to an active walker, nor was there sufficient snow left to form any serious obstacle to progress. Indeed, we thought, had time been at our command, that we might without great difficulty have reached the base of the interior mountain-ranges, which rise here, probably, to a height of some 2000 feet, at a distance of about 15 miles from the coast. These interior ranges were at this time only partially snow-clad, and we saw no traces of glaciers in their valleys nor on their flanks.

On the 19th of July we left this anchorage, and, steaming into the Kostin Schar, landed on and examined several islands. The following day we took up our anchorage in Nechwatowa Bay, a well-sheltered and secure harbour. From there excursions were made inland. Leaving this anchorage

on the 23rd of July, we proceeded to Belootcha Bay, which lies between the promontory of South Goose Cape and the mainland. This wide and open bay is extremely shallow; we had to anchor in a very exposed and dangerous position, in only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms, the best water we could find, but we saw no prospect of making good a footing on Goose-land unless this risk was run. Explorations were made beyond the head of Belootcha Bay, and likewise on Goose-land proper, the ornithological results of which are detailed further on. Early on July the 27th we left Belootcha Bay and sailed for Vardö. We met with head-winds and heavy seas, which retarded our progress, but we reached Vardö on the night of the 30th of July, with only five hundredweight of coal left in our bunkers; thus safely ending an interesting and adventurous voyage to Barents Sea in a very unsuitable craft.—H. W. F.

*List of Birds observed in Russian Lapland, June 20th to 27th.*

By HENRY J. PEARSON.

+ 1. *TURDUS ILIACUS*. Redwing.

Fairly numerous, especially about Lake Ukanskoe. We saw many old nests and young birds, but only took one clutch of eggs (six). The nests were generally placed in the forks of birch-trees (*Betula intermedia*).

2. *TURDUS TORQUATUS*. Ring-Ouzel.

Several were observed in the birch scrub near our camp, but none inland.

+ 3. *SAXICOLA ŒNANTHE*. Wheatear.

Seen twice.

4. *CYANECULA SUECICA*. Red-spotted Blue-throat.

We found a nest with seven eggs on June 26th, in a patch of coarse herbage on marshy ground, close to a small stream, and shot the female.

5. *PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS*. Willow Warbler.

Abundant. Most of the nests found contained eggs nearly fresh; two nests had each seven eggs, but five to six appears a more usual number.

6. *ACROCEPHALUS PHRAGMITIS*. Sedge-Warbler.

A male was shot near Lake Ukanskoe; also two others were seen and heard there.

7. *CINCLUS*, sp. inc. Dipper.

One seen on the river by the writer, but not near enough for the determination of the species.

+8. *MOTACILLA ALBA*. White Wagtail.

Several were seen near the coast and inland. We found a nest of six eggs in the midst of a large stony tract on the hills, which appeared the most unlikely place possible for a nest of any description.

+9. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS*. Meadow-Pipit.

We shot old birds and obtained both eggs and young. It was a common species, especially on the higher ground.

+10. *ANTHUS CERVINUS*. Red-throated Pipit.

Locally common, especially round the tarns and more marshy ground, where it replaced *A. pratensis*. Several were shot, and some well-marked clutches of eggs were obtained. These eggs vary much more in colour and marks than those of *A. pratensis*. In all the nests H. and C. Pearson took in Norway in 1893 there were a few horsehairs or fine black roots in the lining, but we found no trace of this peculiarity in Lapland.

11. *LINOTA EXILIPES*. Coues's Redpoll.

This was the Redpoll of the district and the only one seen. It was abundant on both sides of the fjord and round Lake Ukanskoe. Pairs were also scattered over the hills as high as the birch reached. Unfortunately we were rather late for eggs, and most of those taken were much incubated. We found five nests with eggs (four, five, five, five, four respectively) and six with young. Dresser states, in his 'Birds of Europe,' that authentic eggs were unknown to him, and it may be of interest, therefore, to state that these, as well as the nests, are indistinguishable from those of *L. linaria*. The nests were generally in birch-scrub, and placed near the

main stem; but one or two were found in juniper bushes, 12 to 18 inches above the ground; they are beautifully constructed to imitate the colouring of the birch-bark, and are among the prettiest of the northern nests.

12. *CALCARIUS LAPPONICUS*. Lapland Bunting.

Somewhat scarce; one male shot, and several birds seen and heard.

13. *CORVUS CORAX*. Raven.

Several seen. They were generally on the shores of the river near our camp.

14. *OTOCORYS ALPESTRIS*. Shore-Lark.

Fairly numerous, but we only secured one nest (four eggs) in this district. It was on an islet in Lake Ukanskoe, about 10 feet above the water and 80 yards from it, on sandy ground covered with grass.

15. *ARCHIBUTEO LAGOPUS*. Rough-legged Buzzard.

We found nine nests of the year: two empty, but the birds about; six with eggs (four, four, one, two, two, two respectively), in various stages of incubation (up to the point when the chicks were putting their beaks through the shell and calling distinctly, if not loudly, for their mothers!); and one with young. The position of the nests varied very much; two or three were inaccessible without a rope, one was on the outer edge of a large mass of rock, and we walked to it over practically level ground, while one or two others were on the tops of "perched" boulders and almost as easy of access. Evidently the Buzzard is not much disturbed in this country! The nest is very easily found, as one hears the cat-like call of the old birds in the air almost before seeing them, and their behaviour soon indicates the approximate position of the nest. Some of the eggs taken were richly marked.

+ 16. *HIEROFALCO GYRFALCO*. Gyr Falcon.

We found a nest of this species containing young, in a deep ravine, placed halfway up the cliff on a part that was rather undercut or recessed, making it difficult of access, even

with a rope. We saw both the old birds, but failed to secure either, though if we had waited longer we might probably have shot the female, but the mosquitoes in that gorge were beyond description in language suitable for 'The Ibis.'

17. *PHALACROCORAX GRACULUS*. Shag.

Several seen round the islands on the coast.

+18. *ANSER SEGETUM*. Bean-Goose.

While following up a small stream on our way to "Falcon Gorge," we saw four Geese fly over, two of which settled on a marsh opposite and joined three goslings, running through the scrub. We gave chase at once, and after a smart run two of the three little fellows were secured and put in a fishing-basket, but in a minute both were out through the hole in its lid! One succeeded in getting off down the stream; the other youngster was tied up in a handkerchief to prevent further wanderings. After watching a short time in the scrub, we succeeded in bringing down the mother, which proved to be a Bean-Goose, thus deciding one species of Goose for the district. We had already observed eight or ten Geese here we thought to be Bean. In the race for the goslings we discovered the nests of Willow-Wren, Red-spotted Blue-throat, and Meadow-Pipit; so that quarter of an hour was rather more productive than most of the time we spent here.

*Bernicla ruficollis*.

The head man of the village of Lutni at once recognized a painting of the Red-breasted Goose, and assured us it bred occasionally near Lake Ukanskoe, but we failed to find any trace of it.

19. *MARECA PENELOPE*. Wigeon.

Thought to have been seen by Slater at the mouth of the river.

20. *FULIGULA MARILA*. Scaup.

One pair seen and the male shot.

21. *HARELDA GLACIALIS*. Long-tailed Duck.

Fairly common, but only one nest (seven eggs) found.

## 22. SOMATERIA MOLLISSIMA. Eider Duck.

Not as numerous as on the Norwegian coast; but this is not to be wondered at, for we saw three natives on an island who not only took every nest they could find, but also shot every old Duck which did not leave before their flint-locks could be brought to bear on her.

## 23. ŒDEMA, sp. inc. Scoter.

A pair seen on the lake, but not shot, and the party could not agree as to the species.

## 24. MERGUS MERGANSER. Goosander.

Two pairs seen.

## 25. LAGOPUS ALBUS. Willow-Grouse.

Fairly common. There would probably be some good shooting round the lake in the autumn. At the time of our visit a few young birds had hatched out.

## 26. CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS. Golden Plover.

Fairly common.

## +27. ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA. Ringed Plover.

One or two birds were shot and eggs taken. Six were seen feeding together on the beach; in fact, most of these birds were observed near the sea.

## +28. EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS. Dotterel.

We found two nests (three eggs each) one night; both were on the same range of hills. One bird was shot from the nest and proved to be a male; its gizzard contained about equal proportions of insect and vegetable matter, the former consisting of the hard parts of beetles, and the latter apparently seeds of *Empetrum nigrum*; there was also a little gravel. The bird from the other nest was very tame, coming several times within two feet of us as we sat blowing the eggs. We saw no more of this species in other parts of the district, although we often looked for them.

## +29. STREPSILAS INTERPRES. Turnstone.

Two or three pairs were seen on the islands, apparently breeding, but no nests were found.

+ 30. *HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS*. Oyster-catcher.  
Seen on one island.

31. *PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS*. Red-necked Phalarope.  
Fairly common in suitable localities. Three nests were obtained (four, three, four eggs respectively).

32. *GALLINAGO MAJOR*. Great Snipe.  
A bird was flushed from its nest (four eggs) at the edge of a willow-swamp near Lake Ukanskoe, but unfortunately we failed to secure it. The nest was placed on a tussock of coarse grass.

33. *TRINGA MINUTA*. Little Stint.  
Two birds of this species were shot on the shore when we first landed; they proved to be male and female, but on dissection they did not appear to be breeding. These were the only ones we saw.

34. *TRINGA TEMMINCKI*. Temminck's Stint.  
Fairly plentiful, both round the village of Lutni and on the islands in Lake Ukanskoe. We found a number of nests, the eggs in which were nearly fresh, and shot three birds from the nests (♂ ♀ ♂).

+ 35. *HELODROMAS OCHROPUS*. Green Sandpiper.  
We saw about 20 of these birds one night, but could not find their eggs. In a female we shot, the eggs were only beginning to pass down the oviduct, so the species appears to be a late breeder.

+ 36. *TOTANUS CALIDRIS*. Redshank.  
Two pairs were seen, and one clutch of four incubated eggs taken.

37. *STERNA MACRURA*. Arctic Tern.  
Fairly numerous on one of the islands, where they were breeding. Three clutches of three eggs were obtained, but most of the birds had two or only one egg.

+ 38. *LARUS CANUS*. Common Gull.  
Numerous. They were breeding on one of the outer

islands, and also on one in the river, about three miles from the sea.

+39. *LARUS MARINUS*. Greater Black-backed Gull.

Three or four pairs were observed on one island in the bay, and young in down were found there.

+40. *STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS*. Richardson's Skua.

Common on the islands and near the coast. Several nests were obtained, and one pair of birds shot. The dark form of the latter was the male, and the white-breasted one the female.

+41. *STERCORARIUS PARASITICUS* (L.). Long-tailed Skua.

About eight of these birds were observed and two shot (♂♂). We found one nest (two eggs) placed near the centre of a large isolated mass of peat standing about three feet above the level of the surrounding bog, and therefore dry. The nest itself was a very slight depression, lined with a few bits of lichen.

+42. *FULMARS GLACIALIS*. Fulmar.

Several were seen in Sviatonoskaia Bay on our arrival.

+43. *COLYMBUS ARCTICUS*. Black-throated Diver.

A pair were seen and their eggs taken.

+44. *COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS*. Red-throated Diver.

Common. We took eggs on the edges of some of the tarns.

+45. *LOMVIA BRUENNICHI*. Brünnich's Guillemot.

A dead bird was picked up on an island, but it was impossible to say how long it had lain there, as part of the body had been eaten by beetles &c.

+46. *URIA GRYLLE*. Black Guillemot.

We named Medveji Island after this species, for there were quite 2000 birds on the sea round it, besides those on the eggs. A number of the eggs were obtained: one specially handsome, with light buff ground-colour.

*List of Birds observed on Kolguev (July 5th to 15th).*

## †1. MOTACILLA ALBA. White Wagtail.

Several observed near the Gobista River.

## 2. ANTHUS CERVINUS. Red-throated Pipit.

We found four nests of this bird, two with eggs nearly fresh, one with eggs much incubated, and one with young. The third nest contained six eggs, which were the handsomest of the species we have seen. It was placed in coarse herbage over very wet marshy ground. The others were on dry ground; that containing young being on the edge of the bluff facing the sea.

## 3. LINOTA LINARIA. Mealy Redpoll.

A young male in first plumage, with yellowish-crimson crest and spotted rump, was shot July 6th near our camp. We believe this is the first record of this or any other Redpoll on Kolguev.

## 4. CALCARIUS LAPPONICUS. Lapland Bunting.

One of the most abundant of the small birds. The males were constantly to be seen and heard on all parts of the tundra. Before we left we observed family parties near the coast preparing for migration. We found no eggs, so nidification must commence here early in June.

## 5. PLECTROPHENAX NIVALIS. Snow-Bunting.

Common, like the preceding. We found nests of young birds on July 5th, and before we left there were many young flying about the tundra. The nests were chiefly placed in fissures formed by rain and frost in the edges of the bluffs above the sea and water-courses.

## 6. OTOCORYS ALPESTRIS. Shore-Lark.

These birds were far more numerous here than in any other country we have visited. Either they vary very much in the time of nesting, or rear two broods in the season; for while we saw young birds on the wing when we arrived, we continued to find fresh eggs up to the day of our departure. The favourite position for the nest was evidently on the side

of a dried tussock of coarse grass on the tundra, the upper edge of the nest being level with the surface of the ground. The outer part was always made of fine grass, and the inner lining of the fluffy down of the willow, bog-cotton, and *Nardosmia frigida*. The birds generally sat very close, and their colours harmonized well with the surroundings. We never found more than four eggs in a nest.

+ 7. *NYCTEA SCANDIACA*. Snowy Owl.

We shot a very fine old male of this species with almost pure white plumage, but could find no trace of his having a mate; we thought it possible he was too old to migrate northward for the summer. He was the only specimen seen on the island.

8. *ANSER*, sp. inc. Grey Goose.

Several of these Geese were observed and thought to be Bean, but, as none were shot, we could not identify them positively. They had goslings in down with them; one was caught and appeared to correspond with the Bean gosling taken at Lutni.

9. *CYGNUS BEWICKI*. Bewick's Swan.

The Gobista River runs through an enormous series of glacio-marine beds, which are being constantly denuded by the joint action of spring floods, frosts, and snow, so that the river has formed a long series of bays in its course one to three miles across. These bays are now chiefly marshes, interspersed with lakes and tarns, some of them evidently portions of a former bed of the river; between these bays are headlands of the tundra. On crossing one of the latter we saw two Swans feeding in the marsh below us, and, with the help of glasses, discovered that they had young in down with them. Then at once began a mad race over snow, bogs, &c.; it ended in a dead heat at the edge of the lake. Slater shot the old female and one young one, and two other young were captured by Feilden, but it took two of us to pull him out of the mud after he had secured the second, some yards from shore!! Great was the rejoicing when we examined our prizes, for they proved to be Bewick's Swans. We

saw three or four more old birds about, but, from the number of swan-mounds, we should think they must have been more plentiful some years ago. Since the Russians have provided the Samoyeds with better guns the large birds cannot have had such a happy time here.

10. *HARELDA GLACIALIS*. Long-tailed Duck.

Very numerous about the Gobista. They appear to breed on the tundra, but the nests are difficult to find. We only took one (eight).

11. *SOMATERIA SPECTABILIS*. King-Eider.

A number of males and several females were seen about the mouth of the Gobista, but no eggs obtained. We found one old nest on the tundra, from which the young had been recently hatched; it was more than a mile from the river.

12. *MERGUS MERGANSER*. Goosander.

Several pairs seen.

13. *LAGOPUS ALBUS*. Willow-Grouse.

Fairly numerous, but the cocks were as wild as Grouse on a Scotch moor at the end of the season. The females sit close, and the only nest we found was by nearly walking over the old bird. There were 14 eggs (much incubated), the largest clutch we have taken of this species.

14. *SQUATAROLA HELVETICA*. Grey Plover.

The discovery of these eggs has been so well described by Seebohm and Harvie-Brown in their paper in 'The Ibis,' that we have little to add. We feel sure, however, that our brother ornithologists will sympathize with our glow of pleasure and even our wild war-dance on finding our first nest containing a clutch of four beautiful eggs. And, indeed, both glow and dance were needed, for few things are more calculated to chill enthusiasm and unpleasantly lower one's temperature than watching, for 50 minutes in a piercing wind and sleet, even a Grey Plover to its nest. We took in all seven clutches of eggs (four, four, four, four, four, one, and three respectively). The first two were fairly fresh. In the third and fourth the chicks were calling and their beaks partly through

the shell. The fifth contained young in down, but not quite so advanced. The one egg in the sixth was nearly hatched, and the three young birds from the other eggs were caught about the nest. In the seventh two eggs were addled, one nearly hatched, and one young in down caught near. A few more young were also secured. The positions of the nests were interesting: only two were on the lower ground near the Gobista; one was a mile both from the sea and the river; all the others—also several old nests—were on the tundra not far from the edge of the bluffs which form the margin of the river-basin. Grey Plovers seem to prefer this position, which gives them good posts of observation and allows them to take their young easily into the marshes below to feed. We found a ready way of locating the nest of this bird was to watch a pair of Richardson's Skua hunting over the tundra, for as soon as they approached the nest of the Plovers, both the latter rose into the air and drove the Skuas away. We never observed these birds breeding near each other, each pair appearing to take possession of about a mile of country. All the nests were slight depressions in the peat, lined with a little lichen.

+15. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA*. Ringed Plover.

Fairly numerous near the sea. Several nests were found with eggs; one, in a gully, had been caught by a freshet and nearly buried in the tenacious glacial mud.

+16. *STREPSILAS INTERPRES*. Turnstone.

During their visit to the Porsangerfjord in 1893, II. and C. P. never found the nest of this bird more than five yards from the sea; but on Kolguev the Turnstone selects a position similar to that of the Grey Plover. We took several lots of young in down and one egg, which, curiously, was fresh—not addled—while the other three in that nest were hatched out. In two cases the young were on the mud-flats, with one of the old birds in charge; the other was on the bluff above watching. Turnstones are very noisy when their young are approached, and resort to devices similar to those used by Plover to lure intruders away.

## 17. PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS. Red-necked Phalarope.

A number of these birds were observed in suitable localities, but no nests were taken.

## +18. TRINGA ALPINA. Dunlin.

Common in all the more marshy parts. These eggs—a clutch of four, much incubated—were the first we took on landing. We also obtained several young in down.

## 19. TRINGA MINUTA. Little Stint.

The eggs of this species were among the special prizes obtained on this island. The birds were fairly numerous on both sides of the river as far up as it was affected by the tide, but no nests were found beyond that point. The nests were in all kinds of positions: among coarse herbage on the low marshy ground, on dry ground at the foot of the bluffs, on the sides of the bluffs among dwarf sallow 3 to 5 inches high, and on the tundra among fine low grass some little distance from the edge of the bluffs. We took 15 clutches (12 of four, two of three, and one of one); eight of the most distinctly coloured eggs will be figured by Mr. Frank Poynting in his 'Eggs of the British Limicolæ.' Only two or three of the birds were shot for identification, for when a bird performs a little dance within two feet of you, or sits on your gun-barrel as it lies by your side to see how you blow the eggs, it seems not only unnecessary but cold-blooded murder, to kill it! It was quite bad enough to see one come and sit down in the nest close to your feet, and then get up to enquire where the eggs had gone. Some of the clutches were fresh, others taken some days earlier were too much incubated to make good specimens. In colouring, some eggs are beautifully blotched with burnt-sienna brown on pale green, and are like some varieties of Red-necked Phalarope, while others could scarcely be distinguished from eggs of Temminck's Stint—the latter form proving fatal to the bird! It is evident that great caution must be used in accepting the eggs of this bird as genuine.

## 20. TRINGA TEMMINCKI. Temminck's Stint.

We took only two nests of this bird on the Gobista, and

both were situated above the tidal portion of the river. This species was not so common as the Little Stint.

+21. STERNA MACRURA. Arctic Tern.

Several of these were observed near the shore, but we did not find any breeding-place.

+22. LARUS GLAUCUS. Glaucous Gull.

Two or three pairs were usually about the mouth of the Gobista. We shot one male and took a nest with two eggs on July 6th.

+23. LARUS AFFINIS. Siberian Herring-Gull.

We often saw two or three of this species with the Glaucous Gulls and shot a fine female; but no eggs were found.

+24. STERCORARIUS POMATORHINUS. Pomatorhine Skua.

A few were seen—Slater once saw 14 together—but they did not appear to be breeding.

+25. STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS. Richardson's Skua.

This bird was common on the tundra, and was constantly to be seen in parties—from two to seven or eight—hunting the ground over for food; but we found no eggs or young.

+26. COLYMBUS ARCTICUS. Black-throated Diver.

We saw several pairs of these birds and shot two. We also found one or two new nests, but no eggs had been laid in them when we left the island on July 16th.

+27. COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS. Red-throated Diver.

This bird was fairly numerous; we shot two and obtained several eggs.

*List of Birds observed on Novaya Zemlya  
(July 17th to 26th).*

+1. ANTHUS CERVINUS. Red-throated Pipit.

Several observed.

2. CALCARIUS LAPPONICUS. Lapland Bunting.

We saw a few of these birds, but evidently not common.

## 3. PLECTROPHENAX NIVALIS. Snow-Bunting.

This bird was fairly numerous in several places, and a few were scattered over even the most desolate parts. We saw young flying most days, and took nests with two fresh eggs on July 26th.

## 4. OTOCORYS ALPESTRIS. Shore-Lark.

Fairly numerous, but not so common as on Kolguev. Like the preceding species, the young birds were generally on the wing, yet we found a nest with one fresh egg on July 24th.

## + 5. NYCTEA SCANDIACA. Snowy Owl.

We saw six or eight of these birds and shot one, but found no nest of the year, although we carefully searched all likely places. There were several nests, one or two years old, on the tops of mounds and bluffs near the river running into the head of Belootcha Bay. The river of this name is not shown on any map we have seen, and no doubt the shallowness of the water at the head of the bay, combined with the absence of any secure anchorage, has prevented this inlet and district being explored by any but the Samoyeds, who have a settlement on the western shore of the bay. The Saxon River—as we named it after our yacht—is about 100 yards wide at the point it ceases to be affected by the tide, and flows in a south-westerly direction through Goose-land. It evidently contains a good supply of fish (*Salmo alpinus*) in the summer, as five Samoyeds from the settlement had gone up to fish. In connection with the Snowy Owl we may say that we never saw a live lemming during the whole time we were in the country. The holes and workings of these animals were fairly abundant in places; but few of these were fresh, and it certainly did not seem to be a good year for lemmings.

## + 6. HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA. White-tailed Eagle.

While fishing at Nechwatowa River a fine specimen of this bird came near us. Unfortunately two Glaucous Gulls drove it away before we were able to get a shot.

7. *ANSER SEGETUM*. Bean-Goose.

On July 19th we shot one on an island in Kostin Schar and captured two of its goslings. On the 20th three more were shot at Wilczek Lake, which were moulting their quill-feathers; as we were going some distance up Nechwatowa Lake, and the boat was already well laden with nine persons and gear, the birds were left on a rock—a mistake, for we found on our return the Glaucous Gulls had spoilt two for either skinning or cooking. Several Bean-Geese were also seen among the hills with their goslings; the latter appeared to be seven to ten days old. We were too late for eggs.

8. *ANSER ALBIFRONS*. White-fronted Goose.

One of this species was shot out of a party of five Geese on Saxon River on the 24th. They were all moulting.

9. *CYGNUS BEWICKI*. Bewick's Swan.

Four Swans were seen feeding together on the 26th near Saxon River by Feilden and H. Pearson, and thought to be Bewick's. The birds rose when the former was 100 yards off, so he could not get a shot. Four more Swans were seen the same day by Slater and C. Pearson in another part of the country, and pronounced by them to be Whoopers.

10. *HARELDA GLACIALIS*. Long-tailed Duck.

This was far the commonest Duck in the country, and we frequently saw flocks of 50 to 70, but we found no nests. The species was especially plentiful on Nechwatowa Lake. This lake is a fine sheet of water, about ten miles long and two to three wide, and is surrounded by an undulating country partly covered with coarse grass and moss. None of the hills near it are more than about 200 feet high, but some miles to the north there is a range over 1000 feet in height. In this lake are three islands—Maltzan, Klein, and Schmidt—and as H. and C. P. had visited a similar group in one of the Icelandic lakes last year with very good results, we felt confident, before leaving England, we should find these islands a perfect little Eldorado for eggs, if we could only land on them. We carefully searched all three, and the results were, alas, only three nests of Common Eider!

Schmidt Island is a peculiar, long, low one, composed entirely of blocks and boulders, and rising only 4 to 6 feet above the level of the water; it appeared to be just the place for Ducks to nest upon. There were two or three Purple Sandpipers on it and many Ducks—chiefly Long-tails—in the water around it, but only one nest of Common Eider could we find. The down of this nest was carefully covered with pebbles round its outer edge, to prevent the wind carrying it away. Part of the lake was still covered with ice 5 to 6 feet thick, and we were obliged to drag the boat over more than 200 yards of it. Still the two upper islands were free from ice, so that the birds could not have been disturbed recently by foxes.

11. *SOMATERIA MOLLISSIMA*. Common Eider.

This species was fairly numerous, and we obtained more eggs than we intended, for we shot many old birds from the nest in the hope of their proving to be *S. spectabilis*. However, the Ducks formed a welcome change from tinned meats, and are nearly as good as Mallard, if the skin is not eaten. Most of the eggs were fresh, and on July 25th we found more nests prepared for laying than containing eggs. This shows how late and generally abnormal the season was.

+12. *SOMATERIA SPECTABILIS*. King-Eider.

We saw nearly 200 males together at the western entrance to Kostin Schar, and for 24 hours were under the pleasant delusion that this was the only species present, so that we should have no difficulty in obtaining authentic eggs. It was a great disappointment, therefore, not to secure a single clutch. We hunted over most of the islands between Meshduschavskee Island and the mainland, but with no result.

13. *MERGUS MERGANSE*. Goosander.

A number of old birds were seen, but no nests or young were taken.

+14. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA*. Ringed Plover.

This bird was fairly numerous. One nest was found with one egg remaining, the others being hatched.

†15. *EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS*. Dotterel.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> we shot a very beautiful specimen of this bird (♀), the colouring being decidedly lighter than usual. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we took a clutch of three eggs and shot the bird (♂) from the nest; the latter was placed on the high part of an island at the head of Belootcha Bay.

†16. *STREPSILAS INTERPRES*. Turnstone.

We shot one or two specimens and also took young in down. These birds were only observed by us on South Goose-land.

†17. *TRINGA STRIATA*. Purple Sandpiper.

Not numerous in any one place, but to be seen in all the parts we visited. Several appeared to be breeding, though we failed to discover the eggs or young. We watched one bird for three-quarters of an hour in a storm of sleet, without getting it to settle, and it afterwards went before us for over a mile, behaving all the time as if we were close to the nest. This was the only species of the genus *Tringa* we saw; and we expect the Snipe &c. mentioned by some voyagers as being observed in Novaya Zemlya were really the Purple Sandpiper. As we never saw a mosquito in this country, and as insect-life appeared to be much less abundant than on Kolguev and in Russian Lapland, it seems probable that the Dunlin, Stints, &c. rarely go farther north than Waigatz. In most of the lists of birds observed in Novaya Zemlya no distinction is made between those from Waigatz and those from the south island of Novaya Zemlya. We were only able to visit a very small portion of the country, and so it is quite possible there may be breeding-places in more suitable localities.

†18. *STERNA MACRURA*. Arctic Tern.

A few seen on the ice about eight miles from land, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

†19. *RISSA TRIDACTYLA*. Kittiwake.

Seen at same place, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

†20. *LARUS GLAUCUS*. Glaucous Gull.

Several pairs of these Gulls were seen and some speci-

mens shot. We were evidently too late for eggs, but secured a pair of young in down near the mouth of Nechwatowa River, which we brought home alive. They are doing well and are very tame. One will follow her owner round the gardens and rapidly clears the earwigs out of the pots from the dahlia-sticks. Nothing comes amiss to them, from gorgonzola cheese to rats and mice. Some Great Black-backs from Norway are much more wild, and use their beaks with considerable effect when handled.

† 21. *LARUS AFFINIS*. Siberian Herring-Gull.

Two birds were seen on the ice on July 3rd which we thought belonged to this species.

— 22. *STERCORARIUS POMATORHINUS*. Pomatorhine Skua.

On our second attempt to land on Novaya Zemlya we succeeded in reaching the latitude of North Goose Cape July 2nd, but were obliged by the ice to return. Early on the 3rd a dense fog came down, causing us to steam slowly down the edge of the ice at a distance of from eight to ten miles from Goose-land. Birds were about the yacht in numbers all day—especially Brünnich's Guillemots—and we shot many specimens. Among the species seen that day were Nos. 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, and 30, not one of which was observed again during our stay on land from July 17th to July 27th. We shot two Pomatorhine Skuas on the 3rd and saw several others. This was one of the species the eggs and young in down of which we were most anxious to secure, but we never saw a Skua of this or any other species on the land of Novaya Zemlya. We think, from our observations, that some birds, especially the Skuas, do not breed in bad seasons. If this idea should prove a fact, it may be a provision of nature to prevent the Skuas becoming too numerous. They are well able to defend their eggs and young from the birds of prey found in the same countries, and equally capable of taking care of themselves; so the only foes they need fear are old age and deficiency of food. Each time we were at sea east of Vardö we observed a number of Skuas, and on July 29th, when returning

from Novaya Zemlya, we could count from 60 to 80—chiefly Long-tailed—at any time of the day round the ship.

23. STERCORARIUS PARASITICUS. Long-tailed Skua.

Seen at same time as No. 22.

24. FULMARIUS GLACIALIS. Fulmar.

Seen as above.

25. COLYMBUS ADAMSI. White-billed Northern Diver.

Seen by H. P. on Wilczek Lake, but not shot. Also seen by C. E. P. and H. H. S. on a small lake near Belootcha Bay. In both cases the light-coloured bill could be clearly distinguished.

26. COLYMBUS ARCTICUS. Black-throated Diver.

Several seen, but none shot.

27. COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS. Red-throated Diver.

One was shot on Goose-land and several others were seen there, as well as in the other parts visited.

28. LOMVIA BRUENNICHI. Brünnich's Guillemot.

We found a large colony of these birds breeding on the island where we first landed, at the western entrance of Kostin Schar, and took a good series of eggs. All those taken on July 17th were nearly fresh, but those on July 23rd from the same place had 25 per cent. so much incubated that the young had to be cut out. The series show great variety in colour and size. In colour they closely resemble a selected collection of the Common Guillemot, and pass from pure white to the browns of the Razorbill and every variety of yellow and blue-greens, some being very handsomely blotched with black.

+29. URIA MANDTI.

Shot on July 3rd near the ice.

+30. MERGULUS ALLE. Little Auk.

Seen on same day.